

November 23, 2009

Obey Briefed on Sewer Utility Upgrades

PARK FALLS, WI – Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) was in Park Falls today to be briefed on how the community plans to use \$550,000 in federal funding obtained by Obey for sewer improvements.

“Communities can’t grow and they can’t provide decent job opportunities without strong community infrastructure such as good sewer and water systems,” said Obey. “This project will provide construction jobs and it makes a good long term investment to help Park Falls’ economic future. Investments like these are important because not only do they improve water quality and put people to work, but they allow communities to grow and help ease the squeeze on local ratepayers at the same time.”

The City of Park Falls requested assistance to replace aging sewer utilities along State Highway 13, a major north-south commercial corridor through Park Falls. State Highway 13 is slated to be reconstructed by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation in 2012, which will require the City to replace the aging sewer utilities along the route. It is estimated that some of the existing infrastructure under Highway 13 is up to 70 years old. Internal inspections indicate that the original clay tile pipes have extensive cracks, open joints, and sections which have collapsed. The City will also replace any deteriorating major water mains along the corridor, which runs from the bridge on the south end to 5th Street on the north end.

The engineering design work for the project will be conducted in 2010 with construction expected in 2011, the year before State Highway 13 reconstruction by Wisconsin DOT.

Park Falls was one of four 7th District communities to receive federal funding under the Environmental Protection Agency’s State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) program.

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